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Draft plan of implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (paragraphs 54-75)

VIII. Sustainable development for Africa

54. Since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, sustainable development has remained elusive for many African countries. Poverty remains a major challenge and most countries on the continent have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, further exacerbating the continent's marginalization. Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development have been hindered by conflicts, insufficient investment **[limited benefits from] [and]** international trade, **[unsustainable indebtedness]/[debt], [declining official development assistance (ODA) flows]** and the impact of HIV/AIDS. The World Summit on Sustainable Development should reinvigorate the commitment of the international community to address these special challenges and give effect to a new vision based on concrete actions for the implementation of Agenda 21 in Africa. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a commitment by African leaders to the people of Africa. It recognizes that partnerships among African countries themselves and between them and with the international community are key elements of a shared and common vision to eradicate poverty, and furthermore it aims to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, while participating actively in the world economy and body politic. It provides a framework for sustainable development on the continent to be shared by all Africa's people. The international community welcomes NEPAD and pledges its support to the implementation of this vision, including through utilization of the benefits of South-South cooperation **[recognized by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development].** It also pledges support for other existing development frameworks that are owned and driven nationally by African countries and that embody poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers. Achieving sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

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(a) Create an enabling environment at the regional, subregional, national and local levels in order to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development and support African efforts for peace, stability and security, the resolution and prevention of conflicts, democracy, good governance **[protection of human rights]** and gender equality;

(b) [Agreed] Support the implementation of the vision of NEPAD and other established regional and subregional efforts, including through financing, technical cooperation and institutional cooperation, and human and institutional capacity-building at the regional, subregional and national levels, consistent with national policies, programmes and nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction and sustainable development, such as, where applicable, poverty reduction strategy papers;

(c) [Agreed] Promote technology development, transfer and diffusion to Africa and further develop technology and knowledge available in African centres of excellence;

(d) [Agreed] Support African countries to develop effective science and technology institutions and research activities capable of developing and adapting to world class technologies;

(e) [Agreed] Support the development of national programmes and strategies to promote education within the context of nationally owned and led strategies for poverty reduction, and strengthen research institutions in education in order to increase the capacity to fully support the achievement of internationally agreed development goals related to education, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration of ensuring that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling, and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education relevant to national needs;

(f) Enhance the industrial productivity, diversity and competitiveness of African countries through a combination of financial and technological support for the development of **[critical]** infrastructure, access to technology and networking of research centres to add value to export products, skills development and **[enhancing competitiveness in global markets]/[market access]** in support of sustainable development;

(g) Enhance the contribution of the industrial sector, in particular mining, minerals and metals, to the sustainable development of Africa by supporting the development of effective and transparent regulatory and management frameworks and value addition, fair pricing, broad-based participation, social and environmental responsibility **[and increased market access]** in order to create an attractive and conducive environment for investment;

(h) Provide **[financial and technical]** support to strengthen the capacity of African countries to undertake environmental legislative policy and institutional reform for sustainable development and to undertake **[strategic]** environmental impact assessments **[and] [as appropriate] [to negotiate and] [implement multilateral environment agreements];**

(i) [Agreed] Develop projects, programmes and partnerships with relevant stakeholders and mobilize resources for the effective implementation of the outcome

of the African Process for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment;

(j) [Agreed] Deal effectively with energy problems in Africa, including through initiatives to:

(i) Establish and promote **[consistent with the plan of action as set out in paragraph 9 of the present document]/[consistent with other paragraphs on energy of the present document] [partnerships and initiatives]/[a programme]/[programmes]** to support Africa's efforts to implement NEPAD objectives on energy, which seek to secure access of at least 35 per cent of the African population within 20 years, especially in rural areas;

(ii) [[Provide international support to implement]/[Support] [other] initiatives on energy, including the promotion of cleaner and more efficient use of natural gas and increased use of renewable energy, and improve energy efficiency and access to advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas];

(k) **[Provide]/[Assist]** African countries **[with]/[in mobilizing]** adequate resources **[to undertake impact assessments] [and partnerships]** for **[their]/[all]** adaptation needs relating to **[climate change, sea level rise, climate variability and extreme weather events and continue to take action to prevent climate change in Africa, consistent with commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where applicable]/[extreme weather events as well as climate change, climate variability and sea level rise];**

(l) Support **[African efforts to develop]/[the development of] [infrastructure and] [affordable]** transport systems **[and infrastructure]** that promote sustainable development and connectivity in Africa;

(m) [Agreed] Further to paragraph 37 above, address the poverty affecting mountain communities in Africa;

(n) [Agreed] Provide financial and technical support for afforestation and reforestation in Africa and to build capacity for sustainable forest management, including combating deforestation and measures to improve the policy and legal framework of the forest sector.

55. [Agreed] Provide financial and technical support for Africa's efforts to implement the Convention to Combat Deforestation at the national level and integrate indigenous knowledge systems into land and natural resources management practices, as appropriate, and improve extension services to rural communities and promote better land and watershed management practices, including through improved agricultural practices that address land degradation, in order to develop capacity for the implementation of national programmes.

56. [Agreed] Mobilize financial and other support to develop and strengthen health systems that aim at:

(a) Promoting equitable access to health care **[[and] services]**;

(b) [Agreed] Making available necessary drugs and technology in a sustainable and affordable manner to fight and control communicable diseases,

including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and trypanosomiasis, as well as non-communicable diseases, including those caused by poverty;

(c) [Agreed] Building capacity of medical and paramedical personnel;

(d) [Agreed] Promoting indigenous medical knowledge, as appropriate, including traditional medicine;

(e) [Agreed] Researching and controlling the Ebola disease.

57. [Agreed] Deal effectively with natural disasters and conflicts, including their humanitarian and environmental impacts, recognizing that conflicts in Africa have hindered and in many cases obliterated both the gains and efforts aimed at sustainable development, with the most vulnerable members of society, particularly women and children, being the most impacted victims, through efforts and initiatives, at all levels, to:

(a) [Agreed] Provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of African countries, including institutional and human capacity, including at the local level, for effective disaster management, including observation and early warning systems, assessments, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;

(b) [Agreed] Provide support to African countries to enable them to better deal with the displacement of people as a result of natural disasters and conflicts, and put in place rapid response mechanisms;

(c) [Agreed] Support Africa's efforts for the prevention and resolution, management and mitigation of conflicts and its early response to emerging conflict situations to avert tragic humanitarian consequences;

(d) [Agreed] Provide support to refugee host countries in rehabilitating infrastructure and environment, including ecosystems and habitats, that were damaged in the process of receiving and settling refugees.

58. [Agreed] Promote integrated water resources development and optimize the upstream and downstream benefits therefrom, the development and effective management of water resources across all uses and the protection of water quality and aquatic ecosystems, including through initiatives at all levels, to:

(a) [Agreed] Provide access to potable domestic water, hygiene education and improved sanitation and waste management at the household level through initiatives to encourage public and private investment in water supply and sanitation that give priority to the needs of the poor, within stable and transparent national regulatory frameworks provided by Governments, while respecting local conditions involving all concerned stakeholders and monitoring the performance and improving the accountability of public institutions and private companies; and develop critical water supply, reticulation and treatment infrastructure, and build capacity to maintain and manage systems to deliver water and sanitation services, in both rural and urban areas;

(b) Develop and implement integrated river basin and watershed management strategies and plans for all major water bodies. Countries should be in the process of developing these strategies and plans **[by 2005]**, while respecting **[existing]** regional agreements and national laws and priorities;

(c) [Agreed] Strengthen regional, subregional and national capacities for data collection and processing, and for planning, research, monitoring, assessment and enforcement, as well as arrangements for water resource management;

(d) [Agreed] Protect water resources, including groundwater and wetland ecosystems, against pollution, as well as, in cases of most acute water scarcity, support efforts for developing non-conventional water resources, including the energy-efficient, cost-effective and sustainable desalination of seawater, rainwater harvesting and recycling of water.

59. [Agreed] Achieve significantly improved sustainable agricultural productivity and food security in furtherance of the agreed millennium development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, including through initiatives at all levels to:

(a) Support the development and implementation of national policies and programmes, including research programmes and development plans of African countries to regenerate their agricultural sector and sustainably develop their fisheries, and increase investment in infrastructure, technology and extension services, according to country needs. Countries should be in the process of developing and implementing food security strategies, within the context of national poverty eradication programmes **[by 2005];**

(b) **[Promote and support [policies, programmes]/[efforts] and initiatives to secure [equitable access to] land [and secure] tenure and clarify resource rights and responsibilities [through land and tenure reform processes which respect the rule of law] and to provide access to credit to all, especially to women, and that enable economic and social empowerment and poverty eradication as well as efficient and ecologically sound utilization of land, and enable women producers to become decision makers [and owners] in the sector [including the right to inherit land] [according to national laws and customs];]**

(c) [Agreed] Improve market access for goods, including goods originating from African countries, in particular least developed countries, within the framework of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, without prejudging the outcome of the WTO negotiations and also within the framework of preferential agreements;

(d) [Agreed] Provide support for African countries to improve regional trade and economic integration between African countries. Attract and increase investment in regional market infrastructure;

(e) [Agreed] Support livestock development programmes aimed at progressive and effective control of animal diseases.

60. [Agreed] Achieve sound management of chemicals, with particular focus on hazardous chemicals and wastes, inter alia, through initiatives to assist African countries in elaborating national chemical profiles, regional and national frameworks, and strategies for chemical management and establishing chemical focal points.

61. [Agreed] Bridge the digital divide and create digital opportunity in terms of access infrastructure and technology transfer and application, through integrated initiatives for Africa. Create an enabling environment to attract investments, accelerate existing and new programmes and projects to connect essential

institutions, and stimulate the adoption of information communication technologies in government and commerce programmes and other aspects of national economic and social life.

62. [Agreed] Support Africa's efforts to attain sustainable tourism that contributes to social, economic and infrastructure development through the following measures:

(a) [Agreed] Implementing projects at the local, national and subregional levels, with specific emphasis on marketing African tourism products, such as adventure tourism, eco-tourism and cultural tourism;

(b) [Agreed] Establishing and supporting national and cross-border conservation areas to promote ecosystem conservation according to the ecosystem approach, and to promote sustainable tourism;

(c) [Agreed] Respecting local traditions and cultures and promoting the use of indigenous knowledge in natural resource management and eco-tourism;

(d) [Agreed] Assisting host communities in managing their tourism projects for maximum benefit while limiting negative impact on their traditions, culture and environment;

[(e) Support the conservation of Africa's biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, according to the existing biodiversity-related agreements [as appropriate];]

63. [Agreed] Support African countries in their efforts to implement the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration through initiatives to strengthen national and local institutional capacities in the areas of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, provide support for adequate shelter and basic services and the development of efficient and effective governance systems in cities and other human settlements, and strengthen, inter alia, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme/UNEP managing water for African cities programme.

[VIII.bis Other regional initiatives]

A. Sustainable development initiatives for Latin America and the Caribbean

64. **[The Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development is an undertaking by the leaders of that region that recognizes the importance of regional actions towards sustainable development and takes into account the region's singularities, shared visions and cultural diversity. It is targeted towards the adoption of concrete actions in different areas of sustainable development, such as biodiversity, water resources, vulnerabilities and sustainable cities, social aspects (including health and poverty), economic aspects (including energy) and institutional arrangements (including capacity-building, indicators and participation of civil society), taking into account ethics for sustainable development.]**

65. **[The Initiative envisages the development of actions among countries in the region that may foster South-South cooperation and may count on the**

support of groups of countries, as well as multilateral and regional organizations, including financial institutions. Being a framework for cooperation, the Initiative is open to partnerships with Governments and all major groups.]

66. **[The international community welcomes this undertaking and pledges its support for the region's implementation of the Initiative.]**

B. Sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

67. **[Bearing in mind the target of halving the number of people who live in poverty by the year 2015, as provided in the Millennium Declaration, the Phnom Penh Regional Platform on Sustainable Development for Asia and the Pacific recognized that the region contains over half of the world's population and the largest number of the world's people living in poverty. Hence, sustainable development in the region is critical to achieving sustainable development at the global level. The Regional Platform identified seven initiatives for follow-up action, including capacity-building for sustainable development, poverty reduction for sustainable development, cleaner production and sustainable energy, land management and biodiversity conservation, protection and management of and access to freshwater resources, oceans, and coastal and marine resources, and sustainable development of small island States, and action on atmosphere and climate change.]**

68. **[The international community, bearing in mind the region's specificities and its cultural and ecological diversities, in particular the need of developing countries, welcomes this undertaking and pledges its support to the realization of the objectives contained in the above-mentioned Regional Platform, through, inter alia:**

(a) Intensifying the financial support to the initiatives approved for achieving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Promoting and facilitating capacity-building and technology transfer to the region, in particular those that have substantial impact on poverty alleviation.]

C. Sustainable development in the West Asia region

69. **[The West Asia region is known for its scarce water and limited fertile land resources. The region has made progress to a more knowledge-based production of higher value-added commodities.]**

70. **[The Arab Summit (Beirut, March 2000) has endorsed the following priorities, which were identified by the regional preparatory meeting for the Summit: poverty alleviation, relief of debt burden and the sustainable management of natural resources. These include integrated water resources management, implementation of programmes to combat desertification, integrated coastal zone management, and land and water pollution control.]**

71. **[The international community welcomes these undertakings and pledges support in achieving the objectives included in the report of the preparatory meeting through, inter alia:**

(b) Strengthening capacity-building for sustainable development in the West Asia region;

(c) Promoting the transfer of technologies, particularly information technology;

(d) Increasing financial support to promote integrated water resources management and to combat desertification.]

D. Sustainable development in the Economic Commission for Europe region

72. **[The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region has a major role to play and responsibilities in global efforts to achieve sustainable development by concrete actions. The countries of the region focus their efforts on the overarching objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable production and consumption patterns. The ECE regional ministerial meeting for the Summit established the following priorities of the ECE region in the field of sustainable development: sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, environment and health, making globalization work for sustainable development, improving governance and democratic processes at all levels, education, science and technology. Financing for sustainable development was recognized as a crucial cross-cutting issue.]**

73. **[Despite strong overall economic growth within the region, disparities in economic and social welfare have increased, with some countries experiencing widespread poverty and accompanying insecurity. In this area, increased efforts are required within the region. The conclusions on sustainable development of the OECD Ministerial Council meeting of May 2001, the European Union meeting on sustainable development of June 2001 and the ministerial statement of the Central Asian countries (Almaty, Kazakhstan, September 2001) are important steps in this direction. The ECE regional ministerial meeting for the Summit has affirmed its commitment to promote cooperation in this area.]**

74. **[Regional environmental conventions, the "Environment for Europe" conferences, the North American Commission on Environmental Cooperation, OECD and ECE environmental performance reviews programmes and other ministerial processes in the region continue to play a significant role in developing the region in a sustainable way.]**

75. **[The international community welcomes and expresses its support to the regional and subregional efforts to promote the sustainable development of countries of the ECE region, especially to such undertakings as the development of the environmental strategy of 12 countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, to be adopted at the "Environment for Europe" ministerial conference to be held in Kiev in 2003, as well as the development of the Central Asian Agenda 21.]**